

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231686 TOSEC 270367

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN

SUBJECT: UNGA SPEECH

FOR COVEY/PASSAGE ONLY FROM WOLF

1. AT OUR REQUEST,BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE HAS AGREED TO EXCHANGE SPEECH DATES WITH THE SECRETARY-- THUS ALLOWINGHIM TO SPEAK THIRD (ABOUT NOON) ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30. THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY HIS CHEF DE CABINET IN BRUSSELS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE POLES,WHO HAVE THE SECOND SPOT ON THE 30TH, ALSO AGREED TO EXCHANGE SPEECH DATES WITH US.

2. THE 3RD POSITION (THE BELGIAN'S) IS LESS THAN PERFECT. IF HE SPOKE 3RD, THE POLES, IN 2ND POSITION (AND OTHERS), WOULD BE OFFENDED SHOULD THE SECRETARY ENTER THE

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PLENARY JUST BEFORE HE GAVE HIS SPEECH WITHOUT LISTENING

TO THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER. SRI LANKA PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE, WHO SPEAKS IN THE 4TH POSITION, WOULD ALSO BE OFFENDED IF THE SECRETARY DID NOT REMAIN FOR HER SPEECH. TO AVOID OFFENDING THEM, THE SECRETARY WOULD HAVE TO BE IN THE PLENARY FROM ABOUT 11:30 UNTIL 1:30 OR EVEN LATER.

3. THE 2ND POSITION (THE POLE'S) IS MORE DESIRABLE THE SECRETARY COULD, AS HE USUALLY DOES, SIT THROUGH THE 1ST SPEAKER (PERU), GIVE HIS SPEECH, AND THEN SLIP OUT HALF-WAY THROUGH THE BELGIAN'S SPEECH (DEPARTING THE PLENARY ABOUT 12:15). HOWEVER, THE POLES HAVE NOW REQUESTED A BILATERAL WITH THE SECRETARY, AND AMBASSADOR BENNETT RECOMMENDS THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THIS REQUEST IF WE TAKE THEIR SPEAKING POSITION. WE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO SEND A LETTER TO VAN ELSLANDE THANKING HIM FOR HIS OFFER TO EXCHANGE DATES, BUT TELLING HIM WE HAVE MADE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

4. WE MUST HAVE A DECISION BY SUNDAY. VAN ELSLANDE IS LIKELY TO BEGIN MAKING CHANGES IN HIS SCHEDULE BY MONDAY--BELIEVING THAT HIS OFFER HAS BEEN ACCEPTED. ROBINSON

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